

DFEH News Brief

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CONTACT: Regina J. Brown
(916) 478-7251

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION CASE SETTLED AGAINST APARTMENT OWNERS FOR REFUSING TO ACCOMMODATE TENANT IN DISABILITY CASE

Sacramento – The Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) announced today that it has finalized a \$60,000 settlement in a disability discrimination civil complaint filed against a San Francisco landlord.

The DFEH contended, in a lawsuit filed in San Francisco County Superior Court, that in May 2000, the owners of an apartment building, Globus Enterprises, violated the civil rights of a tenant who suffers from severe degenerative joint disease, when the landlord refused her request for reasonable accommodation of her disability.

The tenant, a resident for 24 years of an apartment building on California Street, in San Francisco, requested a reasonable accommodation for an accessible parking space, and extra keys for her live-in caregiver. The building owner denied her request for disability accommodation. The tenant contacted the DFEH and Project Sentinel, a nonprofit organization that deals with housing discrimination. For the next three years, the tenant fought for her parking space. It was only after the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing filed a lawsuit that the parking space was granted.

“It is gratifying to be able to improve the quality of life for individuals with disabilities. We hope that this sends a strong reminder to housing providers of the legal obligation to provide reasonable accommodation for tenants with disabilities,” said DFEH Director Suzanne M. Ambrose.

DFEH enforces laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations and acts of hate violence. Further information about DFEH and its services may be obtained by visiting the Department's web site at www.dfeh.ca.gov or by calling (800) 884-1684.

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